

NACHC CLINICAL-FOCUSED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ACTIVITIES

Key Priorities: Shifting the conversation beyond prescribing medications for addiction | Highlighting health center innovations

Addiction is a chronic illness that requires a continuum of support services and life-long management.



ESTABLISHED INTERNAL WORK GROUP TO DESIGN A ROADMAP FOR MOVING FORWARD

- Learning more about what health centers are already doing to prevent or treat substance use disorder (SUD)
- Understanding health center needs, including workforce, clinical, and administrative, in caring for patients and families impacted by addiction
- Preparing for implications of opioid-related legislation related to health centers
- Creating an informed position on health centers' role in addressing the SUD epidemic to better inform legislative and funding initiatives
- Working with NACHC's Committee on Service Integration for Behavioral Health and HIV to address the complexities of substance use, such as childhood trauma, co-morbid mental health issues, homelessness, and human trafficking



RAISING AWARENESS OF HEALTH CENTER INNOVATIONS TO INTEGRATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (INCLUDING SUBSTANCE USE-RELATED SERVICES) INTO PRIMARY CARE

- Support interventions that target the root cause of addiction and pain, and offer a comprehensive approach in primary care with coordinated services to ensure the whole health of each patient is addressed
- Developed webinar series, podcasts, publications, and conduct education sessions at NACHC national conferences
- Created speakers bureau to connect media to health centers working to address SUD in their communities



CURRENT CLINICAL-FOCUSED PROJECTS

➤ TAKING CARE OF THE COMPASSIONATE CARE TEAM (FUNDED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADDICTION PSYCHIATRY)

- Conducted interviews with 14 health center thought leaders at 12 health centers to better understand how health centers are leaders in promoting staff wellness, engagement, and joy in work as part of their response to the SUD epidemic affecting the country.

➤ INNOVATIONS IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION (FUNDED BY THE CVS HEALTH FOUNDATION)

- In its second year of funding, NACHC is facilitating a learning community designed to build capacity for providing integrated behavioral health services in communities with high incidence of substance use and abuse. Health centers in the learning community are working in the areas of patient screening; eligibility, engagement and care coordination; prescriber practices; community partnerships; and creating safe, affirmative environments. NACHC is producing a publication to highlight the work of the health centers in this learning community as well as those that participated in a similar community in funding year one.